

Atty Docket No. JCLA6195

Serial No. 09/886,776

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

It is noted with great appreciation that the Examiner deems claim 2 would be allowable if claim 2 is amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 2. After entry of amendments to claim 2, it is believed that the Examiner's rejections can be overcome. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

It is further noted with great appreciation the Examiner deems claims 4, 10-12 and 20-22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have incorporated the allowable subject matters of claims 4 and 14 into the proposed independent claims 3 and 13, and canceled claims 4 and 14. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 5-12, 13 and 15-22 are now in proper conditions for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, Applicants have amended the paragraph beginning at line 13 of page 6 as follows of the specification in order to overcome the objections of the Examiner. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-22 are in proper condition for allowance and reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

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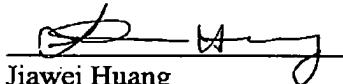
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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the pending claims 1-7, 9-15, 17, 19-22 of the present application patently define over the prior art and are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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